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16 May 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL SMITH

In attached memorandum Mr. Coyne, NSC Representative on Internal Security, reports that Interdepartmental Committee on Internal Security has called attention to the problem created by DISCLOSURES BY VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INFORMATION WHICH IS OF STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE TO US NATIONAL SECURITY and of value to subversive elements in US and to representatives of other governments.

MR. COYNE SUGGESTS that, as responsibility for resolution of this problem rests with legislative branch of the Government, the National Security Council may wish to recommend to the President that Executive Branch representatives discuss the matter with appropriate members of Congress for purpose of curtailing disclosure of strategic information which, if released, would endanger US security.

FNUJ

23 May.

NSC action 478 - referred to NSC - SCSS for recommendations.

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**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON**

May 16, 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

**SUBJECT: Congressional Publication of Information
of Advantage to Foreign Governments**

The enclosed memorandum on the subject by the NSC Representative on Internal Security is transmitted herewith for discussion at an early meeting of the National Security Council of the suggestions contained in the third paragraph thereof.

JAMES S. LAY, Jr.
Executive Secretary

cc: The Secretary of the Treasury
The Attorney General
The Director of Defense Mobilization

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May 16, 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY,
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCILSUBJECT: Congressional Publication of Information of
Advantage to Foreign Governments

The Interdepartmental Committee on Internal Security (ICIS) has directed attention to the problem occasioned by the disclosure by various elements of the legislative branch of the Government of information which is of strategic significance to the national security of the United States and of value to subversive elements in this country and/or to representatives of other governments.

Generally speaking these disclosures of information fall within the following categories: (1) information, sometimes classified, which is concerned with internal security and which is received by Congressional committee in executive session; (2) information received in connection with hearings on appropriations or on proposed legislation which is later correlated and published in such form as to be of interest from a national security standpoint to subversive elements and potentially hostile powers; (3) information obtained by members of the Congress while participating as observers in government operations, often military or technological in nature; (4) information of strategic and technological value to the national security which is distributed to Iron Curtain countries, as well as other nations, by the Library of Congress on the basis of so-called library exchange agreements; and (5) information obtained by the Government Printing Office from legislative sources and issued in Government Printing Office publications which are publicly available.

Since these disclosures have occurred in the legislative branch of the Government it is realized that it is beyond the purview of the Interdepartmental Committee on Internal Security or the Interdepartmental Intelligence Conference, and in fact of the NSC itself to effect remedial action. Nonetheless, since these disclosures have a direct impact upon the internal security of the nation, the Interdepartmental Committee on Internal Security has suggested that this problem be brought to the attention of the Council with a view to ascertaining whether anything can be done to encourage its solution. Inasmuch as responsibility for its resolution rests with the legislative branch of the Government it is suggested that the Council may wish to recommend to the President that representatives of the executive branch discuss this matter with appropriate members of the Congress for the purpose of curtailing the disclosure of strategic information which, if released, would endanger the security of the United States.

J. PATRICK COYNE
NSC Representative on Internal Security